

## David Smith to Andrew Jackson, April 4, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### DAVID SMITH TO JACKSON.

Fort Strother, April 4, 1814

*Dear sir* , I called at Telladega Fort agreeable to your order for the purpose of receiving the prisoners and conducting them to Huntsville. I was unable to execute my order in a Manner that I supposed would meet your approbation and therefore declined taking the old Squaws that were tendered to me.

The Indians at the Fort stated that Old Chinubby had carried off a number of the prisoners to his Fort that many more were out in search of something to eat and the whole number that I could get did not exceed 8 or 10 and those [of] the most helpless and indifferent cl[ass]. Under those circumstances I declined taking any; but learning from Jim fife that two boys had been sold to some of our Men; I came on to this place where I overtook two Boys in the possession of Lieutenant Moore who says he paid \$20 for them. I have taken them under my care and will deliver them to Colo Perkins agreeable to your instructions. The people at the Fort further stated that the cherokees had carried of most of the prisoners and had picked them over leaving none but the most indifferent behind. On the whole sir it is my opinion that the people at the Fort would prefer keeping all the prisoners they have and it belongs to you to determine whether they shall retain them or not. I am Sir with respect your most obt servt